CLAIMS

1.   A traffic manager for facilitating communication between a client node and a server node in a distributed computing environment, the server node having a first interface associated therewith, the traffic manager comprising a central processing unit which is operable to:

       communicate with the server node via the first interface,

       generate and publish at least a second interface corresponding to the first interface according to at least one policy, and

       communicate with the client node via the second interface, thereby allowing the client node to access at least one service on the server node in accordance with the at least one policy.

2.   The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the first and second interfaces comprises Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) interfaces.

3.   The traffic manager of claim 2, wherein the SOAP interfaces employ Extensible Markup Language (XML).

4.   The traffic manager of claim 2, wherein each of the first and second interfaces has a description language file associated therewith defining the associated interface.

5.   The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the first interface corresponds to one of HTTP, TCP, HTTPS, HTTPR, and MQ.

6.   The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the distributed computing environment includes a network corresponding to a single enterprise including the server node, and wherein the client node is external to the network.

7.   The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the distributed computing environment includes a network corresponding to a single enterprise and including both the client and server nodes.

8.   The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy includes requiring authorization by a human operator for invocation of the at least one service.

9.   The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy includes mapping an organizational role to a person.

10.   The traffic manager of claim 9, wherein the mapping of the organizational role to the person is done using an LDAP directory associated with the distributed computing environment.

11.   The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy is a security policy.

12.   The traffic manager of claim 11, wherein the security policy is associated with encryption or decryption of at least a portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

13.   The traffic manager of claim 11, wherein the security policy is associated with generating or verifying at least one digital signature for at least one portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

14.   The traffic manager of claim 11, wherein the security policy is associated with protection against service attacks.

15.   The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy is associated with enforcing policies with respect to publication or access to the first or second interfaces.

16.   The traffic manager of claim 1, wherein the at least one policy is associated with review of data communicated between the server and client nodes.

17.   A traffic manager for facilitating communication between a plurality of nodes in a distributed computing environment, each of the nodes having a primary interface associated therewith, the traffic manager comprising a central processing unit which

is operable to generate and publish a plurality of intermediate interfaces each of which corresponds to one of the primary interfaces, each of the intermediate interfaces being generated according to at least one policy and allowing each of the nodes to access at least one service on at least one other one of the nodes.

18.   The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the primary and intermediate interfaces comprise of at least one Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) interface.

19.   The traffic manager of claim 18, wherein the at least one SOAP interface employs Extensible Markup Language (XML).

20.   The traffic manager of claim 18, wherein each of the primary and intermediate interfaces has a description language file associated therewith defining the associated interface.

21.   The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the primary interface corresponds to one of HTTP, TCP, HTTPS, HTTPR, and MQ.

22.   The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the distributed computing environment includes a network corresponding to a single enterprise including the server node and wherein the client node is external to the network.

23.   The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the distributed computing environment includes a network corresponding to a single enterprise and including both the client and server nodes.

24.   The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy includes requiring authorization by a human operator for invocation of the at least one service.

25.   The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy includes mapping an organizational role to a person.

26. The traffic manager of claim 25, wherein the mapping of the organizational role to the person is done using an LDAP directory associated with the distributed computing environment.

27. The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy is a security policy.

28. The traffic manager of claim 27, wherein the security policy is associated with encryption or decryption of at least a portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

29. The traffic manager of claim 27, wherein the security policy is associated with generating or verifying at least one digital signature for at least one portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

30. The traffic manager of claim 27, wherein the security policy is associated with protection against service attacks.

31. The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy is associated with enforcing policies with respect to publication or access to the first or second interfaces.

32. The traffic manager of claim 17, wherein the at least one policy is associated with review of data communicated between the server and client nodes.

33. A traffic manager for facilitating communication between a client node and a server node in a distributed computing environment, the server node having a first SOAP interface associated therewith, the traffic manager comprising a central processing unit which is operable to:

communicate with the server node via the first SOAP interface,

generate and publish a second SOAP interface corresponding to the first SOAP interface according to at least one policy, and

communicate with the client node via the second SOAP interface, thereby allowing the client node to access at least one service on the server node in accordance with the at least one policy.

34. The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein the SOAP interfaces employ Extensible Markup Language (XML).

35. The traffic manager of claim 34, wherein each of the first and second SOAP interfaces has a description language file associated therewith defining the associated interface.

36. The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein the first and second SOAP interface corresponds to one of HTTP, TCP, HTTPS, HTTPR, and MQ.

37. The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein the at least one policy is a security policy.

38. The traffic manager of claim 37, wherein the security policy is associated with protection against service attacks.

39. The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein the at least one policy is associated with enforcing policies with respect to publication or access to the first or second interfaces.

40. The traffic manager of claim 33, wherein the at least one policy is associated with review of data communicated between the server and client nodes.

41. A traffic manager for facilitating communication between a plurality of nodes in a distributed computing environment, each of the nodes having a primary SOAP interface associated therewith, the traffic manager comprising a central processing unit which is operable to generate and publish a plurality of intermediate SOAP interfaces, each of which corresponds to one of the primary SOAP interfaces, each of the intermediate SOAP interfaces being generated according to at least one policy

and allowing each of the nodes to access at least one service on at least one other one of the nodes.

42. A computer-implemented method of managing traffic between server and client programs, the method comprising:

identifying a first SOAP interface associated with a server program;

generating at least a second SOAP interface corresponding to the first SOAP interface according to at least one policy; and

wherein the client program can use the second SOAP interface to request one or more services.

43. A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the method comprises:

receiving a SOAP message through the second interface from the client program; and

processing the SOAP message in accordance with at least one rule.

44. A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy includes requiring authorization by a human operator for invocation of the at least one service.

45. A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy includes mapping an organizational role to a person.

46. A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the mapping of the organizational role to the person is done using an LDAP directory associated with the distributed computing environment.

47. A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy is a security policy.

48. A method as recited in claim 47, wherein the security policy is associated with encryption or decryption of at least a portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

49.   A method as recited in claim 47, wherein the security policy is associated with generating or verifying at least one digital signature for at least one portion of data which is exchanged between the client and the server.

5   50.   The traffic manager of claim 47, wherein the security policy is associated with protection against service attacks.

51.   A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy is associated with enforcing policies with respect to publication or access to the first or second

10   interfaces.

52.   A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the at least one policy is associated with review of data communicated between the server and client nodes.

15   53.   A computer readable medium having computer program instructions stored therein for performing the method of claim 42.

54.   A computer-implemented method for facilitating communication between server and client programs, the method comprising:

20   reading a WSDL file associated with a first SOAP interface to at least one server program; and

generating or publishing at least a second SOAP interface corresponding to the first SOAP interface in accordance with at least one policy; and

wherein at least one client program can use the second SOAP interface to

25   request one or more services.

55.   A method as recited in claim 54, wherein the method further comprises: reading a first UDDI file which lists the first SOAP interface;

generating or publishing a second WSDL file which describes the second

30   SOAP interface; and

creating or updating at least one UDDI entry associated with the generated or published WSDL file.

56.   A computer readable medium having computer program instructions stored therein for performing the method of claim 54.

57.   A computer-implemented method of processing SOAP messages, the method comprising;

        receiving a SOAP message;

        determining whether at least one rule is associated with the SOAP message;

        evaluating the at least one rule when the determining determines that at least one rule is associated with the SOAP message; and

        processing the SOAP message based on the result of the evaluating of the at least one rule.